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News Release

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Shakopee man indicted for bank robbery

A 32-year-old Shakopee man was indicted March 4 on six counts of bank robbery in connection with six holdups in the Twin Cities between Oct. 19, 2007 and Dec. 3, 2007.

Samuel Bension Ventura's indictment alleges that he did by force, violence and intimidation take currency from various tellers at various banks. Ventura allegedly took approximately \$5,210 from the Highland Bank, located inside the Mall of America on Oct. 19, 2007; approximately \$4,631 from the TCF Bank in Edina on Oct. 24, 2007; approximately \$1,498 from the US Bank in St. Louis Park on Nov. 6, 2007; approximately \$5,706 from the TCF Bank in Plymouth on Nov. 11, 2007; approximately \$1,302 from the Guaranty Bank in Plymouth on Nov. 29, 2007; and approximately \$1,808 from the Guaranty Bank in Plymouth on Dec. 3, 2007.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, Ventura allegedly entered the banks, and handed a teller a note stating "This is a robbery, give me all the money in your drawer. Don't make me use my gun."

If convicted, Ventura faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each robbery count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI, and the police departments of Bloomington, Edina, Plymouth and St. Louis Park. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.